

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13778 312019Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-13 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 CU-04 NIC-01

RSR-01 /167 W

----- 102303

P R 311003Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 13778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: JULY 30 PRESS CONFERENCE ON CEASEFIRE

REF : FBIS JULY 301343Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. EVENING OF JULY 30, COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR INFORMATION  
HOANG DUC NHA, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN PHU DUC, AND  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE RVN DELEGATION TO THE TWO PARTY JOINT MI-  
LITARY COMMISSION BGEN PHAN HOA HIEP HELD AN HOUR AND FIFTEEN  
MINUTE "MEET THE PRESS" SESSION ON SAIGON TV. THE OCCASION  
WAS THE JULY 28 PASSAGE OF THE 45TH DAY SINCE THE PARIS  
COMMUNIQUE, A DATE BY WHICH IT WAS HOPED THE TWO SOUTH VIET-  
NAMESE SIDES WOULD HAVE PROGRESSED TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLU-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13778 312019Z

TION.

2. NHA AND DUC LED OFF WITH SHORT STATEMENTS. THIRTEEN QUESTIONS WERE ASKED. FBIS IS PROCESSING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS (SEE REFERENCE). FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS, FROM NOTES BY AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND AN EMBOFF WHO WATCHED THE INTERVIEW.

3. NHA OPENED WITH A BRIEF ASSERTION THAT THE GVN IS STRICTLY IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND COMMUNIQUE WHILE THE COMMUNISTS' LACK OF GOOD FAITH IS CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE. DUC REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS AT THE LA CELLE-ST. CLUD BILATERAL TAKS, STRESSING THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES ADVANCED BY THE GVN. HE POINTED OUT GVN FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD WILL IN SEEKING TO MEET CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNISTS' DEMANDS, AS IN AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIC LEBERTIES BEFORE SETTling DETAILS OF OTHER MATTERS. DUC CHARGED THE COMMUNISTS REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SVN THROUGH GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE GVN INSISTS ON ELECTIONS, THE SOONER THE BETTER, WHILE THE COMMUNISTS REFUSE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY CANNOT WIN. THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF THE DEADLOCK AT LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD, ACCORDING TO DUC.

3. DUC ALSO NOTED THE GVN READINESS TO DISCUSS ALL QUESTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY, OR IN ANY FORUM. THE GVN HAS SOUGHT PRIVATE TALKS WITH THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THEY HAVE REFUSED. (DUC REITERATED THIS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE COURSE OF THE QUESTIONING.)

4. DURING THE Q AND A SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED, DUC ALSO MADE THESE POINTS: THE RECENT REPORT THAT THE NLF HAS RECEIVED A SHIPMENT OF AID FROM MONGOLIA POINTS UP THEIR INTENTION TO TRY TO DECEIVE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION INTO BELIEVING THERE ARE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN SVN. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A COALITION. THIS COMMUNIST "PLOT" WILL FAIL. THE PARIS AGREEMENT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE TWO SVN'S. AREAS OF CONTROL AS DEFINED IN THE AGREEMENT ARE SIMPLY "MILITARY STATIONING ZONES." TO SPEAK OF "CONTROL" THERE MUST BE "PERMANENT" CONTROL, DUC SAID.

5. DUC POINTED OUT THAT IN GVN'S JULY 20 " DAY OF SHAME"  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13778 312019Z

PROCLAMATION, IT HAD APPEALED TO NVN TO ESTABLISH NORMAL ECONOMIC AND OTHER TIES WITH SVN. NVN REFUSAL INDICATES THAT "THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS DO NOT WANT TO SOLVE THE VIETNAM PROBLEM PEACEFULLY."

6. INFORMATION COMMISSIONER NHA SPOKE TO THE RECENT VISIT BY CERTAIN EMIGRES IN PARIS TO MEMBERS OF THE RVN DELEGATION THERE. THOSE PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES A "THIRD FORCE,"

NHA SAID, ARE ONLY "VIETNAMESE CITIZENS RESIDENT IN PARIS WHO CAME TO OUR OFFICIALS TO TALK ABOUT THE SITUATION." REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN IF THE LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD TALKS REMAIN DEADLOCKED, NHA POINTED OUT THAT THE GVN IS NOT RESPONDING TO THE COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS "ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THE MEANS TO DO SO". THE GVN EARNESTLY SEEKS PEACE, AND WILL KEEP ON TRYING TO MAKE THE COMMUNISTS REALIZE THAT THERE MUST BE A "GENERAL SOLUTION" TO THE VIETNAM PROBLEM, I.E. GENERAL ELECTIONS. NHA SAID TO THIS END THE GVN IS READY TO TALK TO THE COMMUNISTS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, ON ANY ISSUE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT PRESIDENT THIEU'S JULY 21 STATEMENT THAT AN "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" MUST BE IMPOSED ON COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS, NHA POINT OUT INCREASED COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES IN SVN. WE WILL COUNTER THIS, NHA SAID, BUT WE CANNOT SAY JUST HOW, AS THAT WOULD LET THE COMMUNISTS KNOW GVN STRATEGY. ASKED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM, NHA SAID THE FIRST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BEGIN IN VUNG TAU AUGUST 1. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL BE THE FIRST PARTICIPANT. GROUPS OF ABOUT 6,000 CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE TRAINED AT ONE TIME.

8. BGEN HIEP WAS ASKED ABOUT PRISONERS. HE REPLIED THAT WHEN THE CEASEFIRE CAME INTO EFFECT JANUARY 28, THE GVN HELD 31,864 PRISONERS, ABOUT 5,000 OF WHOM WERE CIVILIANS. THE GVN HAS SO FAR RELEASED 28,325 PRISONERS BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, HIEP SAID, AND NOW HOLDS ONLY 3,539. CHARGES THAT THE GVN HOLDS "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" OF PRISONERS ARE "FALSE," HIEP ASSERTED. HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE MANY YEARS OF THIS LONG WAR THE GVN HAS RELEASED MANY PERSONS FROM DETENTION. HE CHARGED THAT THE COMMUNISTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, STILL HOLD MANY TIMES MORE PEOPLE THAN THEY WILL ADMIT. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13778 312019Z

9. HIEP ALSO CHARACTERIZED A GROUP OF "STUDENT INTELLECTUALS" WHO RECENTLY COMPLAINED THEY HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE PRG AT LOC NINH AGAINST THEIR WILL AS "COMMUNISTS." THE "STUDENTS" HAD MADE NO PLEA TO STAY IN SVN WHEN THEY WERE FIRST PRESENTED TO THE PRG, HIEP POINTED OUT, AND THEIR "PETITION" HAD BEEN FILED 24 HOURS LATER. OBVIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO HIEP, THE COMMUNISTS MUST HAVE PUT THE IDEA INTO THEIR HEADS.

10. QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ALLUDING TO THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. BGEN HIEP SAID DECISIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE GVN REACTION TO EVENTS IN CAMBODIA WERE A "MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT " AND HE DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT. MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON13778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973072/aaaaaaxk.tel  
**Line Count:** 169  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 FBIS JULY 301343Z  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JULY 30 PRESS CONFERENCE ON CEASEFIRE  
**TAGS:** PINT, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005